

## **Message from the Chief**

### **Chief's Memo – January 27, 2006**

This week I met with Bernie Weingardt, Regional Forester for USDA Forest Service, and some of his key staff. We had discussions about Forest Service and CDF relationships and continued opportunities for cooperation. Initially, we agreed to meet quarterly, establish agenda items of importance to each of us, and to bring appropriate staff to work on items of mutual agreement. The meeting went very well and I look forward to working together with our federal partners in many areas that will serve them and us well.



I met with Secretary Chrisman to discuss our current year budget deficiencies. He understands our issues and is supportive of helping us resolve our short term and long term budget problems. We will be discussing these issues with the Department of Finance in the near future. I have directed our executive team to establish a working group to identify a prioritized list of actions to take in the event the Department of Finance is unable to address our current year deficiency. The working group will involve Sacramento staff as well as the four region chiefs and one unit chief from each region (to be selected by the region chiefs). I have also directed staff to begin discussing our current and long term budget issues with the union leadership to keep them informed.

The remainder of the week I spent in Riverside County. I had a great week in Riverside County. Chief Anthony and his staff were very hospitable. The ECC in Riverside is doing great things with CAD, GIS, and other technologies. I met with the County Emergency Manager and staff who are also making terrific progress with their EOC. My meetings with the County Supervisors and County Executive went very well. I will share more about this later as we develop a Hemet Ryan update page. I also had the opportunity to tour Hemet Ryan Air Base and fly over March Air Base, as well the fire problem to the west and east. I met with CDF staff and CDF contract pilots and had a very good exchange of information that was very helpful to me. We should all be very proud of the quality of personnel working with and for CDF. The union leadership in the Riverside County district was also very hospitable and helpful in arranging various station visits for me. Thanks to all of you in Riverside County who made my visit so very special.

Finally, I encourage you to view my communications from time to time with the California fire service. Local government agencies have been very supportive of CDF/SFM: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/fromthechief.html>. These communications are sent statewide to Cal Chiefs, League Chiefs, Metro Chiefs, Fire District

Association of California, California Professional Firefighters, NorCal Fire Prevention Officers, LA Area Fire Marshals, State Prison Fire Chiefs, UC Fire Marshals, and many other SFM stakeholders. I encourage all of you to work closely with our local government partners, build strong relationships, establish regular communications, and become actively engaged in your communities.



Ruben Grijalva, Chief  
(Acting) Director

## CDF Unit Visits

Last week I visited the CDF NYP Unit. I would like to congratulate Chief Tony Clarabut on his recent retirement and thank him and his staff for their assistance on our visit. Tom Lutzenberger and Janet Barentson from CDF Management Services joined me on this tour of a few of the facilities, including the Unit HQ, ECC and air base. The visit was very helpful for Management Services who are diligently working on our base budget issues. NYP is doing very progressive work with their chipper program and is providing a high level of customer service within the community. They are also working diligently to get their CAD and GIS files updated to ensure accuracy of emergency response data.



## **The Board of Forestry**

The Board recently published a 15-day notice on the defensible space regulations and guidelines. A public hearing to adopt final rule language will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 8, at the Resources Building Auditorium in Sacramento; and public hearings on the Jackson Demonstration State Forest EIR on February 2, in Ukiah and February 9 at the Resources Building Auditorium in Sacramento.

## **Fire Protection**

The California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) rewrite committee is working towards an all risk document, equation for reimbursement that better reflects actual costs, and general editing of the document.

**Camps:** Statewide CDC/CDRC Camps meeting is scheduled for February 1 and 2, 2006. Funding will be from a non-general fund source.

**Local Government:** The workgroup met on Thursday, January 19, 2006 to review the Amador Project Plan. A summary of the group's efforts will be posted on the Director's highlights on the CDF Intranet page.

Co-op staff is working with Headquarters, Region, and Unit staff to coordinate new Schedule A contracts in San Diego, Placer, San Mateo, and Fresno counties; assisting with the transition of the Tulare County contract; and coordinating development of a new Schedule A model proposal and FC-90 agreement.

**State & Federal Programs:** Distribution of CDF's 2006 Volunteer Fire Assistance Application is in progress.

The Association of Contract Counties meeting took place in Ventura County on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Several working groups were established to address agreement language, cost recovery, and capital outlay funding issues.

Staff is in the initial planning stage for the "Focus On Safety - 2006" program and reviewing nominations for the Governor's Employee Safety Awards.

The Grant Review Board met on January 26<sup>th</sup> to review and recommend JAC Grants.

## **Equipment**

Four Model #35's have been released to Lassen/Modoc, San Luis Obispo, Mendocino, and Santa Clara Units. Two more Model 35's will be released by the end of February.

## **Information Technology**

The Windows 9.x and NT4.0 operating systems will no longer be supported by the CDF as of February 1, 2006. This policy was approved last summer.

Reference policy at:

<http://cdfweb/its/Projects/Win9598NT/OperatingSystem951%203%20policy.doc>

The project to replace these computers and operating systems has been completed, and all CDF units should now be compliant with the policy. If you are aware of any computer on the CDF network that is still using either Windows 9.x or NT4.0 operating system, contact your Field IT Coordinator immediately. On or about February 1, 2006, Information Technology will reconfigure the CDF network to meet security initiatives, and Windows 9.x and NT4.0 computers will no longer be able to connect to the CDF Network.

## **State Fire Marshal**

The SFM's Pipeline Safety Division is working with Pacific Enterprises on their plan to build a new Super Tanker Terminal in the Port of Los Angeles. Construction is scheduled to begin mid July/August; and is expected to take a year to complete.

An SFM Team has been established to review the Code Workgroup and Stakeholders recommendations for potential conflicts with statutes; determine placement of statutory provisions in the IBC/IFC (CBC/CFC); review placement of non-occupancy based regulations in the IBC/IFC; provide coordination with other State Agencies relative to their proposed regulations; and prepare a draft monograph of the proposed new 2008 CBC and CFC.

## **Management Services**

Mid-year fiscal analyses are due to the Budget Office by January 23<sup>rd</sup> or earlier.

Staff continues to work with the Department of General Services (DGS) and Enterprise Rent-A-Car to obtain exemptions to the new statewide DGS sole-source contract for rental cars for CDF during emergencies.

Notices were sent via email to department, region, and field management regarding outstanding Cal-Card accounts that must be paid or risk being suspended.

## **Equal Employment Opportunity**

The Dymally-Alatorre language survey for 2006 is scheduled for the week of February 27-March 23 and the week of March 13 -17. The EEO Office is working

Region and Headquarters staff to identify survey Coordinators and Reporting Assistants for the units/programs. Memos went out last week to the Regions and Sacramento Deputy Directors requesting assistance.

## **Resource Management**

Forest Practice staff attended the Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC) last week to discuss concerns raised regarding the number of THPs returned and not accepted for filing. The PFEC visited Redding and Santa Rosa and the general conclusion was that the number of plans returned are justified for the most part. PFEC is preparing a draft report and expects to present their findings at the March Board of Forestry meeting.

The Monitoring Study Group (MSG) met at the Shasta-Trinity Unit on January 24, 2006. Of special interest are the presentations by CDF staff regarding the final report on CDF's *Modified Completion Report* monitoring program, and an update summary regarding the development of the *Interagency Mitigation Monitoring Program (IMMP)*.